

**CFF Ferndale School Board Candidates Forum**  
**Sunday, October 30**  
**1:00 – 2:30 pm**  
**at Ferndale City Hall**  
**Election Day: Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

**Name:** Jackie Hart

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**How long have you lived in the Ferndale School district?**  
6 years

**If you are a parent, do (did) your children attend Ferndale schools? Why or why not?**

My two sons attend Ferndale Schools. Ferndale Schools provides a variety of academic programs to meet the needs of students based on their interests, academic achievements and potentials. I love that the diversity of the district fosters an environment where students can interact with others from different backgrounds. This community of diverse backgrounds will prepare my sons for working and interacting with others when they make their ways in the world at college and in the workforce.

**Why are you running for the School Board?**

I'm running to retain my seat on the school board, because I want to ensure that the strategic plan is implemented successfully. Equity, achievement, and sustainability are the foundations of the strategic plan and my goal is to make sure we provide a quality education for all students in the Ferndale Public Schools district while adhering to the goals in the plan. All students should have access to quality education programs to help them perform at and beyond their academic potentials. With the addition of new programs and initiatives in the district, I am excited and proud to be part of the new direction of Ferndale Public Schools.

I have much respect and admiration for the teachers who have taken on the responsibility of educating our future generations. I appreciate the staff that provides the administrative support to make sure that the teachers and our children have what they need to be successful and feel safe while they are in school. I will continue to ensure that teachers and administration have the resources they need to continue to support the students.

**What specific experiences have you had that would prepare you for this position?**

I've been a trustee on the Board of Education since I was appointed in January 2016 by the other trustees to serve the remaining term of a former trustee who was elected to City Council. In the past 10 months, I've had experience as a board trustee and have become knowledgeable about the role and responsibilities of a school board member and the policies and operations of the Ferndale Public Schools Board of Education. In addition, I have been an active volunteer in the district and have established many positive relationships with residents of the community, teachers, staff, and local officials. These relationships of mutual respect and my ability to collaborate with others continue to enhance my skills as a committed and productive board member.

**What do you see as the appropriate role of a School Board Trustee when they disagree with an action of the Superintendent?**

The Trustee's role is to set policies and the Superintendent's role is to implement those policies within the guidelines given for the good of the district. It is the responsibility of the Trustee to probe and ask questions of the Superintendent to ensure that all points of view and options are considered when decisions are made. It's important to have open communication between the Trustee(s) and Superintendent to discuss actions and decisions made. A Trustee may not always agree with the Superintendent, but if the actions are fair and just based on the facts provided, the Trustee's role is to support the decision of the Superintendent.

**Are you familiar with the District's Strategic Plan? Where has FPS been most successful in achieving the goals of the plan?**

Sustainability and equity are two goals of the Strategic Plan that the District has started to initiate successfully through the restructuring of the district. This has been demonstrated by the sales of Jefferson, Wilson, and Taft buildings, moving of UHS into the Coolidge building, merging of

elementary campuses into two buildings: Upper and Lower campuses, and the addition of sixth grade to the Middle School campus. The District is continuing to improve sustainability most recently demonstrated by the passage of the Sinking Fund millage, thanks to the community, which will now allocate specified funds to the maintenance of buildings. Combining and consolidating all elementary students into two buildings has promoted a district-wide curriculum that is implemented to all students.

**Where does the School District need to improve efforts to stay faithful to the Strategic Plan?**

The District needs to continue working on and broadening the efforts of inclusion, awareness of diversity, and facilitating communications between groups that are different from each other. This school year, the district created a Diversity Committee for that purpose that includes staff, administration, and parents who have a common goal of improving relationships among all groups.

**How successful has the restructuring of the School District been to date? What actions need to be added to ensure ongoing success of the restructuring?**

The restructuring has gone well, but to ensure that the efforts continue to be successful the district should solicit feedback from students, parents and teachers. In addition, it may prove to be beneficial to form a post-restructuring committee of parents, teachers, and administrators to assess any issues that are of concern and then follow through on efforts to resolve the concerns.

**Should the curriculum be the same for all students? Why or why not?**

The curriculum should not be the same for all students, but should offer a variety of programs that provide students with different opportunities that facilitate successful learning and achievement for all based on their needs. Students are individuals and possess different types of learning styles and the curriculum should reflect that not everyone learns in the same way.

**How would you describe the role that diversity plays in shaping our district?**

Our community is unique in that there are a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, socioeconomic, racial, cultures, perspectives, beliefs, and more. Acknowledging and respecting those differences while working together for a common goal is important for the good and success of the district

When members of the community and district feel comfortable and valued, then that creates a safe place where teaching and learning can thrive.

**Please list three (3) assets of our school district. (Other than our wonderful students!)**

- Range of curriculum and programs that are available to all students to meet the needs of different learners, such as Montessori, Early College, Advanced Placement, Peer to Peer, Cambridge, and more.
- Our district provides dance, art, music, band, choir, and orchestra as part of the curriculum, which are vital to developing well-rounded students academically, emotionally, and socially.
- Ferndale is the only district in the area that provides student athletes with the ability to play sports without paying additional fees to participate.

**Why should I send my child to Ferndale Schools?**

If you want your student to have access to a quality education with a wide range of academic, and extracurricular opportunities while also having the benefit of interacting with other students with different backgrounds and experiences, then Ferndale Schools has it all.